

## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to the diagnosis and treatment of vascular disorders, and to assays for the identification of agents which act upon the circulatory system. It is based, at least in part, on the identification of a novel mouse gene, termed *Vezfl* (for "Vascular endothelial zinc finger 1"), which is expressed at higher levels during embryonic development of the circulatory system, in damaged blood vessels, and in newly formed blood vessels associated with tumor growth.

10053291.01.1702